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Government of the District of Columbia  
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

# Department of Housing and Community Development

*Neighborhoods Are Our #1 Priority!*

Washington, D.C. has many unique neighborhoods, diverse residents, and government agencies that work together to improve the quality of life for city residents. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) plays an important role; it is responsible for producing and maintaining stable neighborhoods, creating homeownership opportunities, promoting economic development opportunities, and increasing the city's tax base. DHCD receives 95 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and HUD funds are primarily intended for low and moderate-income individuals.

DHCD is committed to increasing economic development opportunities, and special attention is placed on business ventures that will create jobs and provide residents with access to quality retail products and services. The department increases homeownership opportunities by offering financial assistance to low and moderate-income residents, providing financial assistance for the renovation of aging and vacant houses, and encouraging activities that foster neighborhood growth and revitalization. In addition, DHCD funds programs that provide housing and support services for individuals with special needs, including senior citizens, individuals recovering from drug and alcohol addictions, the mentally and physically disabled, and the homeless.





**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

In addition to homeownership opportunities, creating jobs and business opportunities for residents are critical to maintaining economically-sound communities. DHCD partners with community development corporations to help create economic development opportunities in key under-served areas of the city. DHCD creates special financing incentives for private lenders; monitors and encourages Community Reinvestment Act financing opportunities by private lenders; and offers financial support to small, disadvantaged, and minority-owned businesses. The department also develops and markets some government-owned properties to help stabilize communities and boost economic revitalization.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Support services focus on two distinct groups: low-income individuals and individuals with special needs. For the low-income population, DHCD funds programs that provide access to homeownership and credit counseling, job training, and technical assistance for purchasing or renovating a house. For individuals with special needs, the department supports programs that provide mental health, substance abuse, and medical treatment to Washington, D.C. residents.



**HOMELESS AND SPECIAL NEEDS  
POPULATION HOUSING**

DHCD partners with public and private sources that address the concerns of those with special needs. The department supports organizations that provide innovative housing, coordination, and referral services for individuals and families living with HIV and AIDS. DHCD funds transitional housing and emergency shelters for the homeless, supports the development of single room occupancy housing, and works to successfully integrate those with special needs into our communities.

**NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING PRESERVATION**

DHCD assists with the renovation of low and moderate-income housing and helps upgrade the appearance of aging houses in the city. The department supports neighborhood efforts that improve housing conditions, and it assists residents in bringing their homes up to housing code standards. DHCD works with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to examine the effectiveness of housing code enforcement, to ensure appropriate steps are taken to maintain quality housing standards throughout the city.



**HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Through partnerships with community development organizations, nonprofit housing providers, lending institutions, and private developers, DHCD is able to open the door to homeownership for many city residents. Providing homeownership assistance is a major component of the department’s neighborhood stabilization and revitalization initiatives. DHCD also encourages residents of subsidized rental properties to become homeowners, supports the renovation of vacant houses and multi-family apartments, and leverages public and private sector funds to increase its homeownership programs.

